

WHEREAS; celebrated in Wisconsin every year on the last Friday in April, Arbor Day is an international holiday dedicated to the planting of trees and honoring the importance of trees and forests; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has more than a century-long commitment to reforestation, and for over 40 years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has provided tree seedlings to the state's fourth-grade students for their Arbor Day celebrations; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's 17 million acres of forests, along with the state's urban forest infrastructure, offer a natural climate solution with countless environmental and quality-of-life benefits that include storing carbon, protecting air and water quality, capturing and filtering stormwater, enhancing wildlife habitats, supplying renewable energy, reducing energy consumption, cooling urban landscapes, and supporting social connections; and

WHEREAS; recognized during the period that begins with Earth Day and ends with Arbor Day, Forest Appreciation Week is a time to acknowledge Wisconsin's trees and forests for their importance to the environment, economy, public health, and collective identity of the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's trees and forests are among the state's most beautiful and critical natural resources, and using science to educate kids, families, and communities about sustainable forestry is vital to their long-term conservation; and

WHEREAS; in 2021, the state of Wisconsin took a pledge to work with public, private, and nongovernmental partners to conserve 125,000 acres of forest land and plant 75 million trees by the end of 2030, and to date, more than 16,300 acres of forest land has been conserved and more than 22 million trees have been planted across the state so far, including 88,000 new trees planted in urban settings; and

WHEREAS; this Arbor Day and Forest Appreciation Week, the state of Wisconsin encourages all Wisconsinites to spend time outdoors, plant and care for trees, and show their gratitude towards the professionals who dedicate their time to caring for the state's trees and forests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 28, 2023, as

ARBOR DAY

and April 22 through 28, 2023, as

FOREST APPRECIATION WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 17th day of April 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State